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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2006, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, JULY 31, 2006

The Senate met at 2:01 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, holy, powerful, loving, and good, we thank You for Yourself, whom we have come to know and love. Let Your presence be felt today on Capitol Hill. Where there is discord, let there be peace. Where there is hatred, let there be love. Where there is sadness, let there be joy. Where there is sickness, let there be health. Where there is poverty, let there be true wealth.

Use our lawmakers for Your purposes. Give them peaceful satisfaction in doing Your will. Teach them the wisdom of confession without coercion and conciliation without compromise.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN CORNYN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 31, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, a Senator from the State of Texas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. CORNYN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour of time equally divided between the majority and the minority.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will start a period of morning business

until 3 p.m. Following that time, we will return to the debate on the Gulf of Mexico energy security bill. We have a cloture vote scheduled for 5:30 on this bipartisan bill. I hope cloture will be invoked and that we can then work together to bring that bill to a close at the earliest opportunity.

This is our final week of business prior to the August adjournment, and we have some extraordinarily important measures to consider before we leave.

We now have a freestanding pensions bill that has arrived from the House which we will need to consider before the close of the week. We also have a bill that relates to an increase in the minimum wage, death tax reform, and some other very important tax provisions. I expect to schedule that bill at the earliest time, and I hope we can get cooperation from all Senators. The Senate will address that package before we adjourn for the recess. Chairman STEVENS is ready to bring the Department of Defense appropriations bill to the floor, and we will look for a window to have that bill debated and voted on as well. There are a number of nominations—judicial and otherwise—that I hope we can consider this week.

We have a very aggressive agenda this week that has been laid out before us—a very important one because I believe the importance and weight of each of these bills demands that we address them this week.

We have acted on a number of issues over the past several weeks, and most of the recent debate has been on the issue we will consider later today, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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